

Dentistry

Advising Sheet

Dentistry is a branch of medicine that is dedicated to helping patients enhance and maintain their oral health. Dentists diagnose, treat, and help prevent diseases, injuries, and malformations of the teeth and gum. Graduates of dental school may hold either a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree, or a Doctor of Medical Dentistry (D.M.D.) degree –both equally recognized.

Dental programs are four-years long, with the first two years spent learning basic sciences, and last two years diagnosing oral disease, surgery, and clinical study; additionally, in the last year, students usually must complete a dental rotation externship. Beyond general dentistry, there are specialized postgraduate programs, such as orthodontics and pediatric dentistry, which can take two to six more years to complete. Some dental schools also offer joint degree programs that can include the study of Dental Medicine with a dual degree in JD, MPH, or MBA.

Common Pre-Dental Prerequisite Courses

Biology	One Year of Coursework with Lab (dependent on your major)	BIOL 151 & BIOL 152
Chemistry	One Year of Coursework with Lab	CHEM 120A & CHEM 120B
Organic Chemistry	One Year of Coursework with Lab	CHEM 301A & CHEM 301B (LAB: 302)
Physics	One Year of Coursework with Lab	PHYS 211 (LAB : 211L) & PHYS 212 (LAB: 212L)
Mathematics	One semester is recommended yet required by other dental schools. Some schools prefer one semester of calculus, while others prefer statistics. Please check with each dental school for more information.	#1) MATH 150A & MATH 150B (Calculus 1 & 2) #2) MATH 130 & MATH 338 (short course Calc & Stats) **for stats: OR stats courses offered by your department for your major
Molecular Biology	One semester is recommended yet required by other dental schools.	BIOL 309
Biochemistry	One semester is recommended yet required by other dental schools.	Biology majors: CHEM 421 (LAB: CHEM 422) Biochem majors: CHEM 423A & 423B (LAB: CHEM 422)
English	One year is required for some dental schools in the country. Please note: this can be integrated in upper-division science courses that fulfill writing requirements for major.	ENGL 101 & ENGL 301
3-Dimensional Art	Many Dental schools strongly recommend at least one course in sculpture to develop manual dexterity and spatial orientation skills.	ART 104

Suggested Courses

Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology	Basic or advanced level sciences courses are recommended yet required by some dental schools. Please refer to ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools for more information.	Human Anatomy: BIOL 361 Physiology: BIOL 310 (LAB: 310L) Integrated Anat/Physio: BIOL 191A, BIOL 191B, BIOL 210 Microbio: BIOL 302
Humanities/Social Science	Many Dental Schools strongly recommend a course in Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy, History, Communications, Business/Economics	PSYC 101, SOCI 101, PHIL 100, HIST 110A/110B/170A/170B, HCOM 100/102, ECON 201/202

Specialties:

General Dentistry
Dental Public Health
Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
Endodontics

Orthodontics
Dentofacial Orthopedics
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Oral Maxillofacial Radiology

The Road to Dental School...

This process will include:

- Researching Dentistry and dental schools
- Meeting with a Pre-Health advisor
- Completing prerequisite courses
- Engaging in extracurricular activities
- Shadowing a dentist.

1. Take the Dental Admission Test (DAT)

The DAT is administered by the American Dental Association and you should contact them regarding the times that the test is offered and the locations.

2. Submit an application to the ADEA Associated American Dental Schools Application Service (AADSAS).

AADSAS collects, verifies and processes or delivers your application information to each of the schools you have chosen to apply to. Individuals should check with each school they are interested in to find out the deadline date for the application. Deadline dates vary by school.

Note: Applicants who are Texas residents wishing to apply to dental schools in Texas will use the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS).

3. Submit additional materials requested by each dental school.

There are a number of schools that seek additional information from applicants in the form of a secondary application. This is in addition to the ADEA AADSAS application and is sent directly to the school

4. Participate in interviews.

The majority of dental schools require an interview be considered for entrance into a class. The process and timing will vary by school and can be in the form of one-on-one, group or multiple mini interviews. Please contact the HPAO at CSUF and the Career Center on campus for a practice mock interview.

Intent to Apply

The HPAO at CSUF offers this service to all dental applicants each cycle. This service helps the student obtain a committee letter from the Health Professions Committee on campus and forms the student's committee packet for professional dental schools. The HPAO will also upload the committee packet to AADSAS and assist you on filling out your application. The Intent to Apply cycle always starts in February. Please contact the HPAO for more information.

Resources:

On Campus: CSUF Pre-Dental Society, SHPA
CSUF Career Center- <http://www.fullerton.edu/career/>
Off Campus: American Dental Education Association- <http://www.adea.org/>
American Student Dental Association- <https://www.asdanet.org/>
Dental Admissions Test- <http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test/>
ADEA Official Guides to Dental Schools- <http://www.adea.org/officialguide/>
Student National Dental Association- <http://www.sndanet.org/>
International Dental Association Volunteer Organizations-
<http://www.ada.org/en/member-center/international-activities/international-global-organizations>
American Dental Association- <http://www.ada.org/en/>



*Your best resource
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